



Ham Lane Lenham Maidstone Kent ME17 2LL
Tel: 01622 858260
Email: office@lenham.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Andrea McCluskey

Reading at Lenham Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may have read in the media that schools are being asked to review their Phonics and Reading provision in Early Years and Key Stage 1. We currently teach Letters and Sounds which is no longer being recommended. So, we are pleased to announce that we will be teaching 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' from September.

What will reading look like?

In Early Years and Year 1- each child will have 2 books to read at home; a 'Love to Read' book and a 'Learn to Read' book. The 'Learn to Read' book will be a phonics book which will match your child's current phonic knowledge. They should be able to read this fluently without the need to sound many words out. The 'Shared Book' will be chosen for you to share with your child. This will have words that your child cannot read, so this book is about the adult reading to develop a love of reading.

Listening to your child read their phonics book

- Your child should be able to read their book without your help.
- If they can't read a word read it to them.
- Talk about the book and celebrate their success.



Read to your child

The shared book is for YOU to read:

- Make the story sound as exciting as you can by changing your voice.
- Talk with your child as much as you can:
 - Introduce new and exciting language
 - Encourage your child to use new vocabulary
 - Make up sentences together
 - Find different words to use
 - Describe things you see.



In school children will have daily phonics sessions which support handwriting and group reading sessions 3 times a week. We will share in September more information and we are holding a phonics session for parents on **Monday 19th September at 14:30.**

For those children who pass the phonics screening at the end of Year 1, they will be moved onto Accelerated Reader.

What is Renaissance Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a reading program that helps teachers support and monitor children's reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short online quiz to measure how much of the book they understood.

What is a Renaissance Star Reading test?

Star Reading is an online test used to measure your child's reading level. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes around 20 minutes.

How do students select books?

AR includes over 30,000 books. These can be found in the school library as well as public libraries, books shops, homes, etc. Each book is assigned three scores to help your child make a suitable choice:

Book Level

Book Levels represent the difficulty of the text. The Star Reading test tells your child what range of Book Levels to read within. This is called the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD).

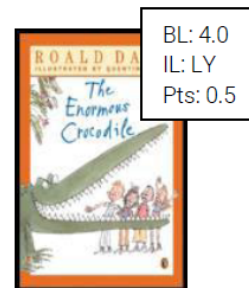
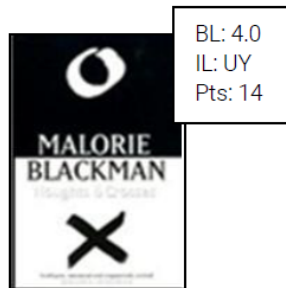
Points

Books are assigned Points based on their word count. Points are earned by passing quizzes. Students are set personalised targets each term by their teacher.

Interest Level

The Interest Level indicates for which age group a book is suitable for. It does this based on the content and themes.

Interest Level	Age (in years)
LY - Lower Years	5-8
MY - Middle Years	9-13
MY+ - Middle Years+	12+
UY - Upper Years	14+



The two examples above both have a Book Level of 4.0. This is because both have short sentences and simple vocabulary. However, 'Noughts and Crosses' is worth 14 Points because it's quite a lengthy text and is intended for Upper Years' students. Meanwhile 'The Enormous Crocodile' is worth 0.5 Points as it is much shorter, and it is intended for Lower Years.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

- Make time for them to read at home. Children need to read for at least 20 minutes every day to improve their reading ability.
- Encourage your child to read; discuss books, asking questions about what they have read; and visit your local library.
- Find suitable books for your child at www.arbookfind.co.uk. Use the Search function to look for specific titles or topics, or go to Advanced Search to browse for books within your child's ZPD and interest level.

